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Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a'r Gymraeg
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Welsh Language



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref WQ92396

Rhys ab Owen MS
Member of the Senedd for South Wales Central

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19 April 2024

Dear Rhys,

Thank you for your Written Question WQ92396 regarding the reasons for airlines discontinuing flight routes from Cardiff Airport.

The day to day running of the Airport is for the board of Cardiff International Airport Ltd who operate the business as a commercial company at arm's length. Ministers do not intervene in the airport's day-to-day commercial operating matters. The management team at Cardiff Airport are actively engaged with airlines, encouraging them to serve Wales's air passenger market, restore flights and diversify the business as part of its recovery from the pandemic.

The airlines run their commercial businesses and choose to deploy their capacity where they can maximise the revenue and returns on their investments. These are mobile assets and routes do change over time. Any decision to add, change or withdraw a route is done at the commercial discretion of the airline operator. This is an industry wide issue and not just isolated to Cardiff Airport. Just like in the rail and bus sectors, high inflation continues to impact airlines' operational costs such as wages and fuel, which have increased significantly. I understand that the suspension of the Paris Orly route by Eastern Airways, was due to a slot issue in Paris. The team at the airport are working closely with airline operators to restore this service as soon as possible. Despite this setback, Cardiff Airport continues to see positive growth.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.